



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CONSUMER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

MARY E. O'DOWD, M.P.H.
Commissioner

March 12, 2013

Dear Local Health Officers:

The New Jersey Department of Health Food and Drug Safety Program (NJDOH) acknowledges that many health departments and retail food establishments were significantly impacted by Superstorm Sandy. Hopefully, the retail food establishments in your jurisdiction were spared from the devastating effects of this catastrophic event. However, several jurisdictions suffered greatly, resulting in an unprecedented strain on the retail food businesses and the resources of the local health departments charged with regulating them.


In this regard, the NJDOH is reminding those affected local health departments that our field inspection and technical staff are still readily available to assist in the evaluation of retail food establishments that have been closed or limited due to storm damage prior to reopening. This activity is considered the highest NJDOH priority.

Those local health departments requesting NJDOH assistance will be required to complete a brief needs assessment identifying the operational status of the retail food establishments in each affected municipality. Information should consist of the following:

- Total # of retail food establishments;
- # of establishments that were closed or limited their operations due to the superstorm;
- # of establishments that have been reopened;
- # of establishments that remain closed.

The needs assessment should be completed as soon as possible and submitted to William Manley at William.manley@doh.state.nj.us. If you have any questions regarding this initiative please feel free to contact me at 609-826-4935.

Sincerely,


William N. Manley
Retail Food Project Leader
Food and Drug Safety Program

c. Joe Eldridge, Director, Consumer & Environmental Health Services
Richard Ritota, Program Manager, Food & Drug Safety Program